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Cook, Saran named vice deans of Law School



Marlene M. Cook

Two longtime staff members of the Law School have been promoted to the rank of vice dean.

Marlene M. Cook has been named vice dean for resource management. She has served UB, including its law school, for more than 24 years as a financial officer. She manages and supervises all budgetary activity for the school, as well as oversees the use of John Lord O'Brien Hall, the law school's

facility. In addition, Cook administers all personnel matters, including direct supervision of 17 staff members.

Before joining the law school in 1988, she served as assistant dean for UB's Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, where she supervised a budget of more than \$20 million, and as assistant dean for academic affairs and financial management in the UB School of Management, where she oversaw the school's move from the South Campus to Jacobs Management Center on the North Campus. She previously served as assistant to the vice president for finance and management in Buffalo State College's Policy and Planning Office, and as a counselor and admissions counselor for students and prospective students.

Since 1979, Cook has served as an adjunct assistant professor in the Department of Organizations and Human Resources in the School of Management. An active member of the university community, she has served since 1979 on the Professional Staff Senate, and is a recipient of the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service, the highest award presented to a member of the professional staff in the SUNY system.

She received a bachelor's degree in education and a master's degree in higher-education administration from Buffalo State College, and a doctoral degree in educational administration from UB.



Melinda R. Saran '86

Melinda R. Saran has been named vice dean for student affairs. She received her law degree from the UB Law School in 1986, and has practiced extensively in special-education and disability law, areas in which she continues to provide consultation. Saran became an instructor in UB's Education Law Clinic in 1989 before becoming associate director for clinical education, acting director of clinical education, then as-

sociate dean for student services. In addition, she teaches a course on disability law and a colloquium at the Law School.

She is a frequent lecturer on education and disability law issues for attorneys, educators, individuals with disabilities, parents of children with disabilities and professionals.

A longstanding member of the Bar Association of Erie County and its Committee for the Disabled, Saran is immediate past president of the Western New York Chapter of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York.

Her extensive community service revolves around issues of individuals with disabilities. Saran serves on the board of the Niagara Frontier Center for Independent Living, which recognized her with the Founders Award in 1996 and as Member of the Year in 2002. She also is a member of the Child and Family Support Council of the Mental Health Association of Erie County, from which she received the 2000 Volunteer Services Award. In 2002, she received the Friend of Gateway-Longview award for her behind-the-scenes assistance to the agency staff in advocating for the education needs of the agency's children and families.

Saran holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master of public health degree from the University of Rochester.

"They are both highly experienced administrators. I feel fortunate to have them both on our administrative team," Nils Olsen, dean of the Law School, says of Cook and Saran. "They are instrumental to the success of the Law School."

Nils Olsen, dean of the Law School, says of Cook and Saran, "I feel fortunate to have them both on our administrative team."